

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

ITEM 10

SUBJECT

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
COMPOSTING OPERATIONS (ORDER WQ 2015-0121-DWQ)

DISCUSSION

On August 4, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations, [Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ](#) (Composting General Order). [Resolution No. 2015-0054](#) (Resolution) certified the Environmental Impact Report, State Clearinghouse No. 2015012021 (EIR), and adopted the Composting General Order. The Resolution directed State Water Board staff to work with representatives of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), Air Resources Board (ARB), California Department Food and Agriculture (CDFA), compost industry representatives, and other interested stakeholders to develop performance measures related to the implementation of the Composting General Order. The Resolution also directed State Water Board staff to report to the State Water Board on the development and progress of performance measures, the status of enrollment, and compliance with the Composting General Order two years following the adoption of the Composting General Order. This item presents the performance measures, an update on compliance with the Composting General Order, and education and outreach activities conducted for organic materials management.

The intent of performance measures is to increase communication and transparency between state regulators and the regulated community, to demonstrate the State Water Board's support for diversion of organic materials to composting and anaerobic digestion facilities, and to assess industry compliance with the Composting General Order. Developing performance measures and providing subsequent reports is imperative to communicate to the public the effectiveness of the Water Boards actions to protect California's waters. Establishing and using performance measures to track and report progress in meeting our goals and targets helps to better manage and evaluate our programs, activities, priorities, and efficiency. To that end, Water Board staff coordinated with stakeholders to develop performance measures to track and report on the effectiveness of the Composting General Order in protecting water quality.

State Water Board staff met with stakeholders during three meetings in June 2016 to obtain input on the development of performance measures for the implementation of the Composting General Order: June 14 in Sacramento, June 23 in Riverside, and August 15 in Sacramento. Attendee affiliations included composters, landowners, landfill owners, consultants, academia (UC Riverside), state agency staff (Regional Water Board, State Water Board, ARB, and CDFA), Air Districts, Local Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), and sanitation districts. This report by State Water Board staff includes information about these performance measures.

POLICY ISSUE

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None. This is an informational item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None.

This informational item presents the performance measures, status of enrollment, and discharger compliance in accordance with the reporting requirements of Resolution No. 2015-0054, in relation to the implementation of the Composting General Order by the Regional Water Boards.